Koi Inu

Chapter 30: Christmas Special

"Santa is Real!!"

IGARASHI SHUN (AGE 7)

MARUTO CHIYOKO (AGE 6)

HE'S REAL ...
I...
I SAW HIM ONCE.
THAT'S RIGHT!!
SANTA IS REAL AFTER ALL!
HE'S REAL!
OHH MARUTO
DO YOU LIKE IGARASHI OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SANTA IS REAL!
I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE!
SHUT UP UGH! THERE'S NO WAY HE'S REAL!
LIAR!
BUT IT'S TRUE!
HE'S DEFINITELY REAL.

DAD?
HM?
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY SANTA?
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
AND THEN ...
BUT CHIYO SAYS SHE'S SEEN SANTA BEFORE.
THAT'S WHAT HIRO SAID AT SCHOOL TODAY.
.....
DON'T LET OTHERS TELL YOU WHAT TO BELIEVE.
GUN ...
.....
DAD, HAVE YOU SEEN SANTA BEFORE?
I HAVE.
.....
EH
REALLY !?
はぁおぉよぉ
ON A PIZZA DELIVERY BIKE, THOUGH.
THEN CAN YOU ASK HIM FOR MUSCLEMAN CHOCOLATE !?
WHAT !?
SANTA IS REAL AFTER ALL!
AHH, I'M SO HAPPY!
UGH... WHERE AM I GOING TO HIDE IT?

And then ... came Christmas Day
MEOW
MEOW
CHIYOKO!
WHAT?
SHUN CAME OVER TO PLAY!
IGARASH!
HEY!
YUP.
WAS THAT A CAT I SAW JUST NOW?
IT'S WARM IN OUR HOUSE SO IT CAME IN.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA PLAY? HIDE AND SEEK?
HEY CHIYO ...
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
WHAT?
MY DAD SAYS HE SAW SANTA!
BUT EVEN IF HE SAYS HE SAW HIM EVERYONE'S JUST GONNA CALL HIM A LIAR...
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT,
YOU WOULD NEVER LIE, RIGHT?
MHM.
AND I THINK HE'S DEFINITELY REAL.
THAT'S WHY
I'M GONNA SHOW EVERYONE PROOF THAT SANTA'S REAL.
REALLY?
TRUST ME!

ALSO ...
YEAH ?

I SNUCK OUT TO COME HERE!

SHH!
OOPS.

IGA-RASHI ...
SHOULD WE MAKE A WISH TO THE STARS SO THAT SANTA WILL COME FOR SURE?
WHAT ?

SOUNDS GOOD!
OH STARS, PLEASE!
MAKE SANTA STOP BY!
TO PROVE... THAT... WE'RE NOT LIARS!
SO THAT WE'LL HAVE PROOF! RA--MEN.

I'M GOING TO BE HIDING HERE READY TO AMBUSH SANTA
IGA-RASHI ...
WHAT IS IT ?
I NEED TO GO PEE.

UGH !
WHY WON'T HE COMING?
DID SANTA SHOW UP?
MAYBE HE'S COMING TOMORROW, NOT TODAY?
PLOD PLOD PLOD ...
!
HE CAME !?
IT'S SNOWING!
HEY? SANTA, WHERE ARE YOU?
MAYBE THAT'S HIM?

OOF ...
THAT REALLY SURPRISED ME...
I'M SO SORRY... I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL. FOR MY DAUGHTER TO POSE SUCH A NUISANCE.
NO NO NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ASANO.
I'M GOING TO GIVE EIJIN A GOOD TELLING-OFF LATER...
AH WHAT THE HECK, IT'S CHRISTMAS. HOW ABOUT WE FORGIVE THEM?
C'MON? SHINYA.
BUT I STILL DON'T WANT TO LET HER OFF SCOT-FREE LIKE THAT.
IT MAY BE CHRISTMAS BUT THAT WAS INEXCUSABLE.
IGA-RASHI ...
SANTA CAME!
YEAH!
AND THEN ON MONDAY MORNING...
AFTER CLASSES ENDED, CHIYO AND I WENT TO TELL HIRO ABOUT HOW WE SAW SANTA. BUT HE NEVER BELIEVED US IN THE END...
SO THEN
IT BECAME A SECRET BETWEEN JUST THE TWO OF US.
OUR SECRET.

• AFTER GROWING UP, IT'S ON SNOWY NIGHTS LIKE THESE THAT I STARE AT THE EXPANSIVE SKY,

AND I REMEMBER HOW NAIVE AND UNASSUMINGLY PURE WE WERE BACK THEN...

THE IMPORTANT THING WASN'T WHETHER OR NOT SANTA CLAUS WAS REAL, BUT RATHER OUR BELIEF IN SANTA.

WHEN WE BELIEVED, EVERYTHING WAS FUN. WHEN WE BELIEVED, EVERYONE WAS HAPPY...

SANTA TURNED OUT NOT TO BE REAL AFTER ALL.

WE THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT... IF WE WERE GOOD IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS EVE, SANTA WOULD DEFINITELY SHOW UP!

WELL... SANTA PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS A NAUGHTY CHILD FOR KIDNAPPING A GIRL... AND GOT MAD AT ME...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas

THE CAROLUS MENGUS TRANSLATION GROUP

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Koi Inu is best when read in its original long strip form at:
http://www.bato.to/comic/_/comics/koi-inu-r15434
where this scanlation is originally posted.